

KIDERLEN-WACHTER, THE MAN OF
AGADIR 151

On the same afternoon the Chancellor of the Exchequer visited the Foreign Secretary and asked if a reply had been received to the communication of July 4. On hearing that there was none, he produced a statement which he proposed to read that evening at an official dinner at the Mansion House. Both the project and the text were approved by Grey and Asquith. Neither Germany nor Morocco were mentioned, but the warning was clear enough. " If a situation were to be forced upon us in which peace could only be preserved by the surrender of the great and beneficent position Britain had won by centuries of effort and achievement, by allowing Britain to be treated where her interests are vitally affected as if she were of no account in the Cabinet of Nations, then I say emphatically that peace at that price would be a humiliation, intolerable for a great country like ours to endure."

Three days later, on July 24, Metternich brought the response to Grey's communication of July 21. The *Panther* had been sent to Agadir to protect German interests and for no other cause. Not a man had been or would be landed unless German lives were menaced. Germany had never thought of a naval port on the Moroccan coast and had no design on Moroccan territory. If France wanted a free hand in Morocco she must offer compensation. Visibly relieved by this conciliatory message, Grey asked if he might announce that no landing had taken place. The Ambassador replied that he must consult his Government, and on the following day a less agreeable conversation took place. After the provocative words of Mr. Lloyd George, declared Metternich, the assurance must not be revealed. Nobody must think that the German Government had made a declaration of intentions in consequence of that speech. If France refused

an agreement,
he continued, Germany must demand that the
Treaty of
Algeciras should be observed and that the
status quo ante
should be restored. A Conference would be
needless. If no
other signatory was prepared to join in
vindicating the Treaty,
Germany unaided would secure by all means full
respect for
her rights. The Ambassador proceeded to read
a vigorous
protest against the Mansion House speech. The
German
proposals seemed to his Government quite
acceptable, and
they concerned territories in which English
interests were not
involved. If, however, England had desires,
they should
surely have been transmitted through the
usual channel,
instead of by a public declaration which had
been interpreted